Salutem in Christo.

GOod men and euill delite in contra-
ryes. The good in sæking for trueth,
and maintenance thereof: Euyll, in
hiding of Trueth, and oppressing therof:
And so consequeutly to publish Trueth, is
to please the good, and to displease the euil.
Wherfore, hearing ỳ amongest the cõmon
sortes of men at this time: it is not certain-
ly knowen what is the cause that ỳ Duke
of Norffolk is newly cõmitted to ỳ Towre
and sundrie others: And knowynge that
good men will be wel satisfied to vnderstand
the truth, which euyl men wold cõuer and
oppresse: I could not but in conscience to
satisfie the good, and bridle or stop the lyeng
and open sclaunderous mouthes of the vile
and seditious, notifie thus much to you,
wherby you maye also cõmunicate ỳ same
to others, for that it is likely that false and
sclaunderous reportes will be readily made
hereof to serue the appetites of the euyll
disposed.

First, it is not vnknowẽ that the Duke
of Norffolke did of late yeares secretly pra-
ctise to haue maryed wt the Scottish quæne
without the knowledge of the Quæenes
Maiestie our Soueraigne Lady.

It is not also vn knowen ỳ the said Scottish Quæne hath bene the most dangerous ennemy against the Quænes Maiestie our Soueraigne Lady, that lyued, in that shee sought to haue the Crowne of England frõ her Maiestie, immediatlye after Quæne Maryes death.

It is also well knowen that whan she could not get it, neyther by force nor conuyng, she solempnly promised to acknowledge her error, and to recognise the verye true right to be iustly in the Quænes Maiestie our soueraygne Ladye to whome the same belongeth, as lawfull Daughter and Heire to king Henry the eight her Father, and so also by the Lawes of ỳ Realme perfectly established, to succæde King Edward the sixte her Brother, and Quæne Marye her Elder Sister, and by the Homage of all her Nobles, Prelates, and People as duely acknowledged at her Coronation, as euer any kyng of England was in any former tyme: And in very dæde, as worthye a Prince for this Realme for, her Clemencie and gõdnes in gouernmẽt as euer raigned

It is also knowen ỳ the Scottish Quæne hath not yet performed her promise, but with fryuolous answeares hath delayed it,

Neyther

Neither is it of any sorte to be demaũded, or worth the hauyng, if she would yelde to perfourme it. For neither can she ỹ coulde not gette this Realme whan she sought it wrongfully, nor kepe her owne whan shee had it quietly, amende the Quenes Maiesties estate: which is fully parfect: nor yet is any thing that she shoulde promise, to be holden firme and durable: but as time shall giue hir cause to kepe it or to breake it.

It is also said and credibly avowed that the Scottish Quene was the greteste cause of the Rebellion lately in the North, wher by some noble Houses that had serued this Realme, partly by themselues, & specially by their Auncestors valiantlye against the Scottes, were now by connyng practise of this Scottish Lady beynge deprined of her Kingdome, inticed to ouerthrowe them selues and their Houses, with a multitude of more Englishe Subiectes than shee coulde haue don by armes in the Fielde, if she had bene in possession of her Kingdome.

It is also knowen, notwithstandynge this, that the Quenes Maiestie beynge voyde of a reuengynge Nature, (as in all Actes hathe soo appeared, that some sorte of wyse men haue noated

it a faulte for a Prince) did labour to haue restored her to her Countrey (as in dede the Quænes Maiestie was the cause of sauinge of her lyfe, after the murder of her husband) with composition betwixt her and her sonne the kyng, and ỳ States & people of that Realme, therby to put som good end to the Ciuill warres in the same.

It is also knowen, that the Quæne of Scottes did vpon the first apprehension of the Duke of Norffolke by wrytinges to the Quænes Maiestie, vtterly renownce the Duke of Norffolke and his Mariage, with some Noate that she did not of her selfe first moue it, nor yet like it. And so did the Duke him self, after his first apprehension: by many messages, and by special writing directed to the Quænes Maiestie, humbly and penitentlye acknowledge his offence in seking to mary w̃ the Scottish Quæne, and did firmely vnder his hand and Seale promyse neuer to deale therin any further, or in any other matter with that Quæne.

And now it is certainly founde, that the former practise betwirte that Quæne and the Duke, notwithstandyng their seuerall renunciations and firme promises to the contrarye, hath had continuance without

interrup-

interruption by secret meanes of sundry euill parsons, both all the tyme that the Duke was first in Prison in the Tower: and also euer since, whan he was committed to his owne House, vntill he was nowe newlys committed to the Tower.

But how dangerous soeuer this attempt may be iudged in them to cõtinue the secret practise and intention to mary agaynst the Quœnes Maiesties will, and the expectacion of all that be knowen duetifull Subiectes to her Maiestie, and true frendes to the Duke: That maye best appeare by the daungerous practises that haue accompanied and folowed this attempte, which almighty God hath marueiously discouered, to the safety of her Maiesties person & preseruation of the Realme.

It was deuised & determined that a new Rebellion should bee moued nære London. The Cittie should be taken by force and possessed: In the meane time a nomber of Strangers men of warre shuld be brought by Sea from the lowe Countreyes beyond the Seas, to a notable Port of this Realm mæte for the purpose, and so both forces of ennemies and Rebelles should ioyne, and than proceede to further thynges than is

expedient (as I heare) to be spoken off at this tyme.

These deuises were not onely talked off, put in wrytinge, and fully concluded, but the Messengers were also sent ouer Sea in Lent last, with sufficient Authoritie of commission and wrytinges to testifie the determination of them that shuld be the heades and conductors of this Rebellion, as the same beynge imparted on the other side the Sea, was wel accepted & allowed: and ther of seuerall Letters were spædilye written to the said Quæne, & to the Duke of Norfolke, & specially to that vngratious Priest named the Bilshop of Rosse (the Instrument of all the Dukes calamytie, and the Hæde man of all Treasons againste this Realme) that this enterprise must be kept secret, and namely from the Frenche, for certaine respectes not of small moment, as is said, vntill the Messenger should poste to Rome to the Pope for Money, & to the King of Spayne for order and direction for men and Ships. The Messenger had his Letters of Credit from the Scottish Quæne, the Duke, and others, to the Pope, and the Kinge of Spayne. And so commynge to Rome: he retourned Letters from the Popes gratious holynes in the beginnyng of May to the said Quæne, and to the Duke

and

and others. The Letter to the Duke was in Latin, begynning, Dilecte fili, salutem. But in dede the Duke might well saye he sent not Salutem but perniciem. The Duke had them, and red them by the intercetion of that aforesaid vngratious Priest. The contentes in som parte were, that the Pope well allowed of the enterprise: Yea would write also to the King of Spayne to further it, but his present busynes of the chargeable Warres than in preparyng against the Turke, was the cause that Money could not then be had for that Sōmer: And yet his vngratious Volynes after his accustomed sorte comforted them all not to dispaire: So it appeareth that God yet ordeyned him eyther to be so zelous against the Turke, whiche surely was a good acte, or els his Volynesse Coffers are not now a dayes so full of Money as his Bulles are of Thunderclappes, so as the lack of money at that time happely stayed the prosecution to ful effect of this dangerous treason: And so it is to be hoaped that by the same goodnesse of God, the mischiefe hereafter ment shall be diuerted.

It was also by the deuisors of these rebellions & inuasions determined ỹ the Realm of Irelande should be assayled at the same tyme

tyme therby to weaken the Quœnes Maiesties Forces, or to diuert them from Defence of her selfe and her good Subiectes.

Now wer it best to leaue w̄ these former Braunches, for it is credibly said, that this Tree of Treason & Rebellion hath a nomber of other Branches of the very lyke nature: That is, in deuisinge how the Scottish Quœne should haue ben conueyed awaye, sometyme by disguising, somtyme by playne force, and raising of Rebellion: and so put to lybertie, and proclaymed Quœne of England and Scotland: but to encrease the error of her Style: she should haue ben proclaymed Kyng and Quœne of England and Scotlande. It might be also reported howe her Sonne should haue ben stolne out of Scotlande, to be sent into Spayne, with suche lyke deuises tendyng to mœue troubles in the Realme, that was and yet is (thanked be God) quiet.

And now it may be that some will saye, that many of these things are doubtfull, and percase wrested in reporte, eyther by malyce, or by ouermuch credulitie: But truelye in suche credible sorte are all the thynges aboue mentioned, with sundrye others to mee reported to bee verye true by

suche

suche as haue cause to know them, and vse not to repoꝛte vntrouthes, as I dow bouldly auow them to be true. And yf they shall be found otherwise, than it is likely that som of the Quænes Maiesties Counsell wyll cause them to bæ repꝛehended, who vpon this my wꝛytinge shall repoꝛte them, and therupon I wyll pacientlye suffre coꝛrection foꝛ my hastie Credit: foꝛ it is moste lykely that such matters of estate as these are, wyll not be suffred to be communicated wout repꝛehension. On the other side, yf they be true, as I haue repoꝛted, and yet not fully ynough repoꝛted, than time wyll shoꝛtly enlarge and confirme them, whan her Maiesty shal cause the parties now impꝛisoned to answeare openly therto, by oꝛder of her Lawes, as there is no doubt but shæ will obserue to all maner of Subiectes that course as hitherto manyfestly & graciously she hath don, and so God longe kæpe her vnder his speciall pꝛotection, as hitherto he hath miraculously, to raygne ouer vs in peace.

Since I wꝛote this, I am ẏ moꝛe boldened to thinke all these thyngs true, foꝛ that this pꝛesent daye the Loꝛde Maioꝛ of this City of London with a nomber of his Bꝛethꝛen were at the Starre Chamber with

the

the Quéenes Maieſties Counſell, where I vnderſtand by Repoꝛt of ſom of them that hard what was ſaid by the Coũſell to them concerning the preſent caſe of the Duke of Noꝛffolke that the ſubſtance of all that is by me befoꝛe repoꝛted, is verye true, with muche moꝛe.

At London the .xiij. of October. 1571.

Youꝛ louyng Bꝛother in Lawe. K. G.

MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM